

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method of recharging a fuel reservoir of a direct oxidation fuel cell used to
2 power an electrical appliance, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 3 A. providing an inlet fitting on the appliance, the inlet fitting providing sealed
4 access to the reservoir, said inlet fitting conforming substantially to a standardized
5 specification;
 - 6 B. providing canisters that mate with the inlet fitting, the canisters having
7 chambers containing fuel for the fuel cell, mating of the canisters with the inlet
8 fitting opening the sealed access;
 - 9 C. mating one of the canisters with the inlet fitting; and
 - 10 D. discharging fuel from the canister chamber to the reservoir.
- 1 2. The method defined in claim 1 in which the canisters are distributed through con-
2 ventional retail and/or on-line distribution channels.
- 1 3. The method defined in claim 1 in which the inlet fitting is keyed so that only can-
2 isters having corresponding electrical and/or mechanical keys can be mated with the inlet
3 fitting.
- 1 4. The method defined in claim 1 in which exhausted canisters are disposed of.
- 1 5. The method defined in claim 1 in which exhausted canisters are refilled.
- 1 6. The method defined in claim 1 in which exhausted canisters are recycled.
- 1 7. A method of refueling a direct oxidation fuel cell used to power an electrical ap-
2 pliance, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 3 A. providing a substantially full, user-removable fuel cartridge which is inte-
4 grated with the appliance, said fuel cartridge coupled to said fuel cell or to a fuel
5 reservoir and conforming substantially to a standardized specification;

6 B. removing said fuel cartridge from said appliance when said fuel cartridge
7 is substantially exhausted or at another time; and

8 C. installing a substantially full fuel cartridge in said appliance.

1 8. The method defined in claim 7 in which the cartridges are distributed through
2 conventional retail and/or on-line distribution channels.

1 9. The method defined in claim 7 in which the cartridges are keyed so that only car-
2 tridges having corresponding electrical and/or mechanical keys can supply fuel to said
3 fuel cell or fuel reservoir.

1 10. The method defined in claim 7 in which exhausted cartridges are disposed of.

1 11. The method defined in claim 7 in which exhausted cartridges are refilled.

1 12. The method defined in claim 7 in which exhausted cartridges are recycled.